Brown University
Department of French Studies
Graduate Courses Spring 2015
(Note that all courses are subject to change; refer to Banner for the most up-to-date information)

FREN 2130G "Queering the Grand Siècle" Lewis Seifert

This seminar will approach canonical and non-canonical 17th-century literature through the lens of queer theory. Using strategies of queer critique while being attentive to literary/historical context, we will explore a selection of poetic, prose, and theatrical texts from perspectives that trouble the heteronormative and patriarchal norms of knowledge and power. Particular focus will be given to the reception of the “Grand Siècle” in contemporary French cultural identity and poststructuralist thought. Theoretical readings by Butler, Edelman, Freccero, Foucault, Halberstam, Sedgwick; literary texts by François de Sales, Théophile de Viau, Benserade, Cyrano de Bergerac, Madeleine de Scudéry, Corneille, Molière, Racine, Bussy-Rabutin, Lafayette, d’Aulnoy, Choisy, among others.

FREN 2630A "Theories of Decolonisation" Justin Izzo

This seminar studies theories of postcolonial politics as these emerged from philosophies and experiences of decolonization. We will consider how contemporary thinking about politics, democracy, and modernity in Africa and the Caribbean maintains a critical dialogue with foundational theoretical work on decolonization. Our approach will be interdisciplinary, and will include major works of philosophy, anthropology, literary theory, and fiction, from both the Francophone and Anglophone traditions. Our seminar will also make a claim on history: we will examine how major early theorists of decolonization and postcolonialism enjoy provocative purchase on postmillennial critical thought within and about the Global South.